IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of   :

Minoru NAKANO   :   **Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH**

Serial No. NEW   :   **Docket No. 2002_0046A**

Filed January 18, 2002   :

SYSTEM FOR SUPPLYING SEMICONDUCTOR
MANUFACTURING SYSTEM CONTROL PROGRAMS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
    Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination of the above-identified application, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the following claims:

5.(Amended)   A system for supplying semiconductor manufacturing system control programs according to claim 1, which system is further provided in the controller with a buffer for temporarily storing the control program received from the administrative server through the communications circuit and wherein the control program stored in the buffer is stored in the memory in response to a determination result or an instruction.

6.(Amended)   A system for supplying semiconductor manufacturing system control programs according to claim 1, which system is further provided in the controller with a facility for retaining existing data used to execute the replaced control program and

wherein the processor executes the new control program stored in memory using the existing data.

Kindly add the following new claims:

13.(NEW)   A system for supplying semiconductor manufacturing system control programs according to claim 2, which system is further provided in the controller with a buffer for temporarily storing the control program received from the administrative server through the communications circuit and wherein the control program stored in the buffer is stored in the memory in response to a determination result or an instruction.

14.(NEW)   A system for supplying semiconductor manufacturing system control programs according to claim 3, which system is further provided in the controller with a buffer for temporarily storing the control program received from the administrative server through the communications circuit and wherein the control program stored in the buffer is stored in the memory in response to a determination result or an instruction.

15.(NEW)   A system for supplying semiconductor manufacturing system control programs according to claim 4, which system is further provided in the controller with a buffer for temporarily storing the control program received from the administrative server through the communications circuit and wherein the control program stored in the buffer is stored in the memory in response to a determination result or an instruction.

16.(NEW)   A system for supplying semiconductor manufacturing system control programs according to claim 2, which system is further provided in the controller with a facility for retaining existing data used to execute the replaced control program and

wherein the processor executes the new control program stored in memory using the existing data.

17.(NEW)   A system for supplying semiconductor manufacturing system control programs according to claim 3, which system is further provided in the controller with a facility for retaining existing data used to execute the replaced control program and wherein the processor executes the new control program stored in memory using the existing data.

18.(NEW)   A system for supplying semiconductor manufacturing system control programs according to claim 4, which system is further provided in the controller with a facility for retaining existing data used to execute the replaced control program and wherein the processor executes the new control program stored in memory using the existing data.

19.(NEW)   A system for supplying semiconductor manufacturing system control programs according to claim 5, which system is further provided in the controller with a facility for retaining existing data used to execute the replaced control program and wherein the processor executes the new control program stored in memory using the existing data.

REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to delete the multiple dependencies of claims 5-6, thereby placing such claims in condition for examination and reducing the required PTO filing fee.

Copies of the amended portion of the claims with changes marked therein is attached and entitled *"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."*

Respectfully submitted,

Minoru NAKANO

By _____
Michael S. Huppert
Registration No. 40,268
Attorney for Applicant

MSH/kjf
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
January 18, 2002

5.   A system for supplying semiconductor manufacturing system control programs according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 to 4, which system is further provided in the controller with a buffer for temporarily storing the control program received from the administrative server through the communications circuit and wherein the control program stored in the buffer is stored in the memory in response to a determination result or an instruction.

6.   A system for supplying semiconductor manufacturing system control programs according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 to 5, which system is further provided in the controller with a facility for retaining existing data used to execute the replaced control program and wherein the processor executes the new control program stored in memory using the existing data.

7.   A method for supplying a semiconductor manufacturing system control program through a communications circuit to a controller for controlling operation of a semiconductor manufacturing system by executing a control program, the system comprising:

a step of transmitting a control program through a communications circuit to a controller of a semiconductor manufacturing system; and

a step, effected at a time when the semiconductor manufacturing system is in an operating state permitting a previously installed control program to be changed, of storing the transmitted control program to be executable by the controller.

8.   A method for supplying a semiconductor manufacturing system control program through a communications circuit to a controller for controlling operation of a semiconductor manufacturing system by executing a control program, the system comprising:

a step of transmitting a control program through a communications circuit to a controller of the semiconductor manufacturing system; and

a step of executing the transmitted new control program in the controller using data used to execute an old control program.

9.   An administrative server for supplying a semiconductor manufacturing system control program through a communications circuit to a controller for controlling operation of a semiconductor manufacturing system by executing a control program, the administrative server comprising:

a facility for transmitting a control program through a communications circuit to a controller for, at a time when the semiconductor manufacturing system is in an operating state permitting a previously installed control program to be changed, storing the received control program in a memory of the controller to be executable by the controller.